

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD - Public Hearing

Conrail Derailment in Paulsboro, NJ with Vinyl Chloride Release

Agency / Organization

US Coast Guard

Title

Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan Section 1700 - Local Response System

1700 Local Response System

This Area Contingency Plan coordinates with the state local response systems of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The following information was supplied by the above referenced states and was adopted into this plan with minor font and formatting changes which did not alter the information or content.

DELAWARE Local response system

Refer to the Delaware Oil & Hazardous Substance Incident Contingency Plan for more information.

NEW JERSEY Local Response System

There are nine New Jersey counties which border the Delaware River and Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Each county is sub-divided with numerous municipalities within the Captain of the Port's jurisdiction:

3 municipalities
15 municipalities
4 municipalities
6 municipalities
8 municipalities
11 municipalities
15 municipalities
13 municipalities
23 municipalities

Each county and municipality have an Emergency Management Coordinator available 24-hours a day. The County Coordinator has the ability to access all county and municipal resources in the event of disaster or emergency situations.

All of the counties, except Mercer, have an agent contracted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), under the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA). In Salem County, the County Office of Emergency Management (Co. OEM) is the contracted agent. In the remaining counties, the County Health Department is the agent.

The C.E.H.A. contract authorizes the County Agents to act in DEP's behalf in areas of: water, solid waste, spills of hazardous substances (N.J. State laws defines oil as a hazardous substance), and emergency response. The County Agents are activated by various means: DEP, NJOEM, County OEM, county communications, or direct requests from municipalities.

Mercer County has no C.E.H.A. contract Agent. Trenton City and Hamilton Township, both bordering the Delaware River, have Hazardous Material Response Units. Trenton city's unit is under the jurisdiction of the full-time, paid fire department. Hamilton Township's unit consists of volunteers and is somewhat limited in response. These units can be activated through the Mercer County Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC).

For specific county information, all the county plans are on file, and all of the County Emergency Operations Plans have the same plan format.

All of the counties have their respective Municipal Emergency Operations Plans on file, and specific municipal information can be accessed through the county EMC.

PENNSYLVANIA: Local Response System

County Government

Each county has an emergency management coordinator who maintains an emergency management organization. This organization provides logistics and resource support for the emergency response forces.

County Emergency Management Coordinator

- a. Notify PEMA of any accident involving a spill of oil or other hazardous substance.
- b. Brief emergency services personnel concerning response actions for oil spills
- c. Provide access and egress control for accident-affected areas in coordination with state and municipal police.
- d. Provide county hazardous materials team to assist.
- e. Provide information on local conditions including road network, surface water supplies, and environmentally sensitive risk areas.
- f. Coordinate the safe and efficient use of volunteers.

Maintain or obtain county and municipal response cost documentation for possible use in recovery action.